

Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide a perspective of where the Mississippi Gulf Coast is today relative to where it was when Hurricane Katrina made landfall ten years ago. The metrics shared below are those which the Gulf Coast Business Council have consistently reported since it was formed in the aftermath of Katrina. Clearly, the statistics provided below do not tell the full story of the Mississippi Gulf Coast or its recovery from America's worst natural disaster, nor do they reflect the other obstacles which the region has overcome along the way, but the figures and commentary do provide the reader with a foundation of where the Mississippi Gulf Coast is today as compared to ten years ago.

Over the last ten years, the Mississippi Gulf Coast has rebounded from a natural disaster of epic proportions, battled through the Great Recession, and responded to the Oil Spill of 2010. The progress made can be attributed to the resiliency of the people of the region, and also through the collaboration of leadership – civic, business, and nonprofit – of the region's three counties and 12 municipalities. This collaboration by itself is quite the feat, and one of the region's biggest accomplishments to date. Moreover, billions of dollars in strategic investments have been made in the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 2005, positioning the region to compete within the key industries which drive the region's economy for years to come.

In 2015, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is well positioned for the next ten years, where the focus should not be how it stacks up to 2005, but how it grows and prospers relative to where it is today.

People and Jobs

Population (source: US Census)				
County	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Hancock	45,949	46,088	(139)	Areas located furthest from flood zones and from main impact of storm have seen greatest increases in population. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, population levels fell to as low as 335,000 people.
Harrison	199,058	195,756	3,302	
Jackson	141,137	134,243	6,894	
Total	386,144	376,087	10,057	

Establishment Jobs (source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security)				
County	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Hancock	13,840	14,180	(340)	Industries which have largest gap between current and pre-Katrina employment levels include Tourism (down 4,600), Retail (down 1,500), and manufacturing (down 2,100 but cyclical in nature).
Harrison	88,940	97,250	(8,310)	
Jackson	51,600	52,850	(980)	
Total	154,380	164,010	(9,630)	

K-12 School Enrollment (source: Mississippi Department of Education)				
County	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Hancock	6,459	6,707	(248)	Does not include Parochial or private school data. Harrison County and Jackson County school districts have grown by 10%. Ocean Springs has grown 6%. Moss Point and Bay-Waveland have reported largest percent declines in enrollment.
Harrison	31,793	31,018	775	
Jackson	24,466	25,270	(804)	
Total	62,718	62,995	(277)	

General Economy

Annual Sales Tax Diversions (source: Mississippi Department of Revenue ⁱⁱ)				
County	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Hancock	\$4.2 million	\$3.6 million	18%	While all three counties have grown their respective sales tax base since Hurricane Katrina, applying a modest annual 1.5% growth rate to 2005 levels would result in the region having a sales tax base of \$68 million (as opposed to \$58.6 million). Cities with the largest growth in sales tax base include D'Iberville (up 79%), Moss Point (up 25%), Ocean Springs (up 28%), and Gulfport (up 10%).
Harrison	\$40.6 million	\$37.0 million	9%	
Jackson	\$14.2 million	\$12.7 million	11%	
Total	\$59.0 million	\$53.3 million	10%	

Select Housing and Insurance Data (sources: Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association, US Census, Gulf Regional Planning Commission)				
	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Wind Pool Policies	41,044	15,252	25,792	In 2011, the peak number of wind pool policies along the Mississippi Gulf Coast reached 46,606 and has declined annually over the last four years. Katrina damaged or destroyed between 78,000 and 94,000 homes and residences in 2005. Housing units now exceed levels reported in 2000 census, and apartment unit supply has also rebounded from only 13,600 in 2007.
Housing Units	172,207 (2013)	152,386 (2000)	19,821	
Apartment Supply	16,629 (2014)	16,977 (2004)	(348)	

Tourism

Key Tourism Indicators (sources: Mississippi Department of Revenue, Mississippi Hospitality & Lodging Association)				
	2015	2005	Change	Notes
Gaming Revenue ⁱⁱⁱ	\$1.1 billion	\$1.2 billion	(\$100 million)	While Hurricane Katrina, the recession, and the 2010 oil spill all dealt significant blows to the region's tourism industry, fierce competition from other destinations in the southeast has also been a factor. One of the biggest accomplishments to date has been the creation of a regional destination marketing organization to market the region as a singular destination. Hotel room inventory has rebounded after reporting only 3,400 rooms in service in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
Overall Tourism Tax Collections ^{iv}	\$8.3 million	\$6.1 million	\$2.2 million	
Hotel Room Supply	14,554	17,482	(2,928)	

ⁱ Establishment jobs are those located in specific county. Data based on June 2015 vs June 2005.

ⁱⁱ Annual sales tax diversions are the share of sales tax collections which are diverted back to originating municipality. Data presented is annualized based on 12 month period ending June 2015 (compared to same period ending June 2014).

ⁱⁱⁱ Gaming Revenue calculated for 12 months ending June 2015 (compared to same period ending June 2005).

^{iv} Overall tourism tax collections include lodging and/or F&B taxes in Hancock County, Harrison County, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, and Pascagoula. These were annualized based on 12 months ending June 2015 (vs June 2005).